

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A method of producing a package containing a plurality of items, the method comprising the steps of:

producing a carton substrate;

erecting a carton from the carton substrate, the carton including a convenience feature accessible to a user from the exterior of the carton;

filling the carton with the plurality of items such that the each of the items is substantially bounded by the carton;

over-wrapping the ~~filled~~ carton with a film after the filling the carton step such that ~~substantially~~ the entire film registers with a portion of the carton; and

scoring a portion of the film proximate the convenience feature on the carton and thereby facilitating access by the user to the convenience feature through the film.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the convenience feature is one of the following:

a dispenser; and

a handle.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
scoring the carton substrate to define the convenience feature.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the scoring of the film is accomplished by one of the following techniques:
directing a laser onto the film; and
applying a die to the film.
5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the over-wrapping of the carton with the film substantially covers the entire carton with the film.
6. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the producing of the carton substrate and the over-wrapping of the film are accomplished at first and second sites, respectively, which are geographically remote from one another.
7. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the convenience feature is accessed by the user without removing any of the items from the package.
8. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the filling of the carton further comprises:
substantially concealing each of the items within the carton.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

applying multi-color graphics to the film prior to over-wrapping the filled carton with the film.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

selecting one of a plurality of films for over-wrapping the filled carton wherein each of the plurality of films has a different graphic representation thereon.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the scoring of the film occurs after the over-wrapping of the filled carton.

12. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the scoring of the film occurs before the over-wrapping of the filled carton, the method further comprising:

aligning the scored portion of the film with the convenience feature on the carton.

13. (Currently Amended) A method of producing a package containing a plurality of beverage containers, the method comprising the steps of:

producing a carton substrate;

scoring the carton substrate to define a convenience feature;

erecting a carton from the carton substrate, the carton including the convenience feature accessible to a user from the exterior of the carton;

wherein the convenience feature is one of a dispenser and a handle;

filling the carton with the plurality of beverage containers such that the each of the beverage containers is substantially bounded by the carton;

over-wrapping the filled carton with a film after the filling the carton step such that substantially the entire film is in confronting relation with a portion of the carton; and

scoring a portion of the film proximate the convenience feature on the carton and thereby facilitating access by the user to the convenience feature through the film;

wherein the scoring of the film is accomplished by one of the techniques of directing a laser onto the film and applying a die to the film and the scored portion of the film becomes part of the convenience feature when accessed by the user.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13 wherein the producing of the carton substrate and the over-wrapping of the film are accomplished at first and second sites, respectively, which are geographically remote from one another.

15. (Original) The method of claim 13 wherein the convenience feature is accessed by the user without removing any of the beverage containers from the package.

16. (Original) The method of claim 13 wherein the filling of the carton further comprises: substantially concealing each of the beverage containers within the carton.

17. (Original) The method of claim 13 further comprising:

applying multi-color graphics to the film prior to over-wrapping the filled carton with the film.

18. (Original) The method of claim 13 further comprising:

selecting one of a plurality of films for over-wrapping the filled carton wherein each of the plurality of films has a different graphic representation thereon.

19. (Original) The method of claim 13 wherein the scoring of the film occurs after the over-wrapping of the filled carton.

20. (Original) The method of claim 13 wherein the scoring of the film occurs before the over-wrapping of the filled carton, the method further comprising:

aligning the scored portion of the film with the convenience feature on the carton.

21. (Currently Amended) A method of producing a package containing a plurality of items, the method comprising the steps of:

producing a carton substrate;

erecting a carton from the carton substrate, the carton including a convenience feature accessible to a user from the exterior of the carton;

filling the carton with the plurality of items such that the each of the items is substantially bounded by the carton;

over-wrapping the filled carton with a film after the filling the carton step; and scoring a portion of the film proximate the convenience feature on the carton and thereby facilitating access by the user to the convenience feature through the film, wherein the scored portion of the film becomes part of the convenience feature when accessed by the user.